

**Florida Disaster Fund
Slate of Approvals
Hurricane Idalia**

**1- Cedar Key Aquaculture Association - Request \$700,000 -
APPROVAL REQUIRED**

Support of Aquaculture/Oyster and Clam Farmers/Shellfish Industries

Cedar Key Aquaculture Association is a nonprofit corporation made up of over 80 members of the clam farming industry, including seed suppliers, growers and wholesalers, in the Big Bend region of Florida. The mission of the group is to improve the profitability and sustainability of the industry.

Florida's shellfish aquaculture industry is especially active in the impacted region, with 230 businesses maintaining an active lease with the state to grow aquaculture products for their livelihood, such as oysters and clams. The industry is especially active in Levy County, where 203 Florida businesses have been impacted, as well as Citrus (11), and Hernando (12) counties. Preliminary reports estimate \$29,470,970 in self-reported losses by aquaculture businesses and an additional \$400,000 from shellfish processors. When adjusted for unreported loss, estimates reach over \$34,000,000.

This funding would work together with the Department of Commerce's Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services annual Aquaculture Shellfish Nursery and Hatchery Grant Program, to support aquaculture businesses most impacted by the storm. Specifically, funding will be used to support the repair or replacement of equipment and supplies. Applications will be prioritized for those hit in the three hardest hit counties for Aquaculture: Citrus, Dixie, and Hernando.

Approval is requested to fund the award. The funds will be fully released with the award letter to include the requirement of monthly reporting on activities and fund usage/project progress, as well as assurances that it does not duplicate effort afforded by the other aforementioned programs.

- 2- Big Bend Technical College - Taylor County School District - Request \$50,000 - APPROVAL REQUIRED**
- 3- Taylor County Chamber of Commerce - Request \$50,000 - APPROVAL REQUIRED**

It is recommended to support Taylor County workforce and economic development activities with \$100,000 as the community recovers from both Hurricane Idalia and the recent announcement of the closure of the Georgia-Pacific Foley Cellulose Facility. To that end, the following two awards are recommended:

- \$50,000 be awarded to Big Bend Technical College to support scholarships for local students seeking to attend school to train for high skill – high wage careers in the CTE (Career and Technical Education) field. This is especially important given the projected increase in need following the closure of the Foley Cellulose Facility.

Big Bend Technical College is within the Taylor County School District and therefore a governmental entity.

- \$50,000 awarded to the Taylor County Chamber of Commerce to support their continued workforce and economic development efforts. This is especially important for the community as it responds to the impacts of the Foley Cellulose Closure.

Taylor County Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)6 nonprofit and organized to promote or address shared interests and concerns of their members.

Approval is requested to waive the requirement that the beneficiary of the grant award be a 501(c)3 (Taylor County Chamber of Commerce). Monthly reporting detail and project progress will be required.